

**REMARKS**

**Status of the claims**

Claims 1-22 have been cancelled and new claims 23-26 have been added, which are directed to detection and diagnostics methods involving human low-molecular weight CD14.

**Restriction of the claims**

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-17, drawn to an antibody prepared using a peptide of CD14 as an antigen and an assay kit;

Group II, claims 18-20, drawn to an assay method or a diagnostic method for human low-molecular-weight CD14;

Group III, claim 21, drawn to a peptide; and

Group IV, claim 22, drawn to a method of preparing an antibody to CD14 antigen.

**For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group II, claims directed to assay methods and diagnostic method for human low-molecular weight CD14.** This subject matter is presented in new claims 23-26.

The Examiner has required an election in the present application upon the election of Group I. Since Group I was not elected for examination, no further election of species is required.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact MaryAnne Armstrong, Ph.D., Registration No 40,069 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.

Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 28, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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